

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



CHICOM R-CLASS
SUBMARINE CONSTRUCTION

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CHICOM R-CLASS SUBMARINE CONSTRUCTION

An apparent resurgence has developed in the construction of Chicom R-class attack submarines. Six of the Soviet-designed vessels (Figure 1) are now operational, at least four others are under construction, and there are strong indications that work on at least one other unit will soon begin.

For several months following the launching of the last of the six submarines, little if any R-class construction activity was identifiable at Shanghai Shipyard Kiangnan or Wuhan Shipyard Wuchang (Figures 2 and 3), the two prime producers of attack submarines. Then, in a relatively short period between mid-1966 and early 1967, four R-class (two confirmed and two probable) were started.

The first of the medium range submarines was probably laid down at Wuhan during 1962, and the second at the same shipyard in early 1963. Concurrently, the third was being started in 1963 at Shanghai. Confirmation of the Chicom R-class construction program was obtained in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] submarine was photographed at the Chingtao Submarine Base. It is believed this unit was the first Wuhan-built R-class. The fourth and fifth submarines in the series were laid down at Wuhan and the sixth at Shanghai.

The approximate launching timetable of R-class submarines is:

Unit No. 1.	Wuhan	early or mid-1964
Unit No. 2.	Wuhan	fall 1964
Unit No. 3.	Wuhan	late 1965
Unit No. 4.	Shanghai	winter 1965-1966
Unit No. 5.	Wuhan	summer 1966
Unit No. 6.	Shanghai	fall 1966

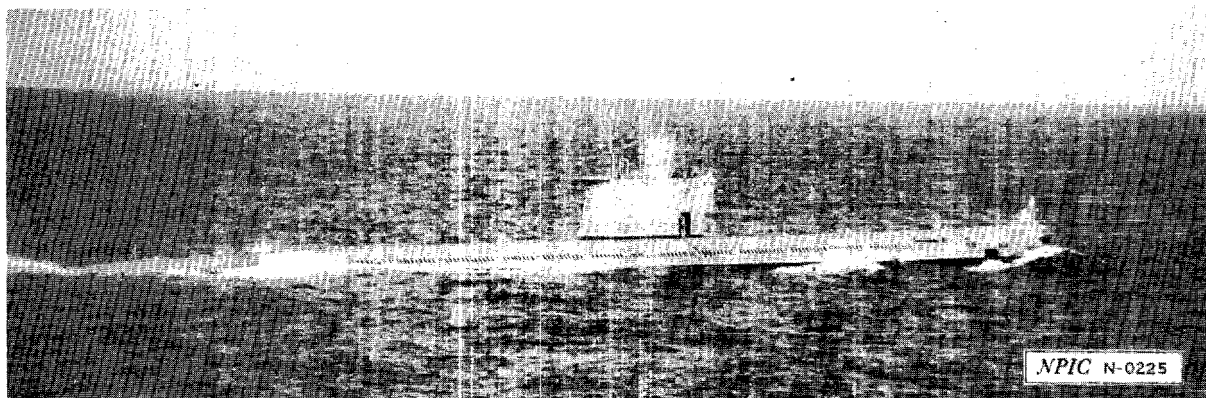


FIGURE 1. R-CLASS SUBMARINE.

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TOP SECRET RUFF
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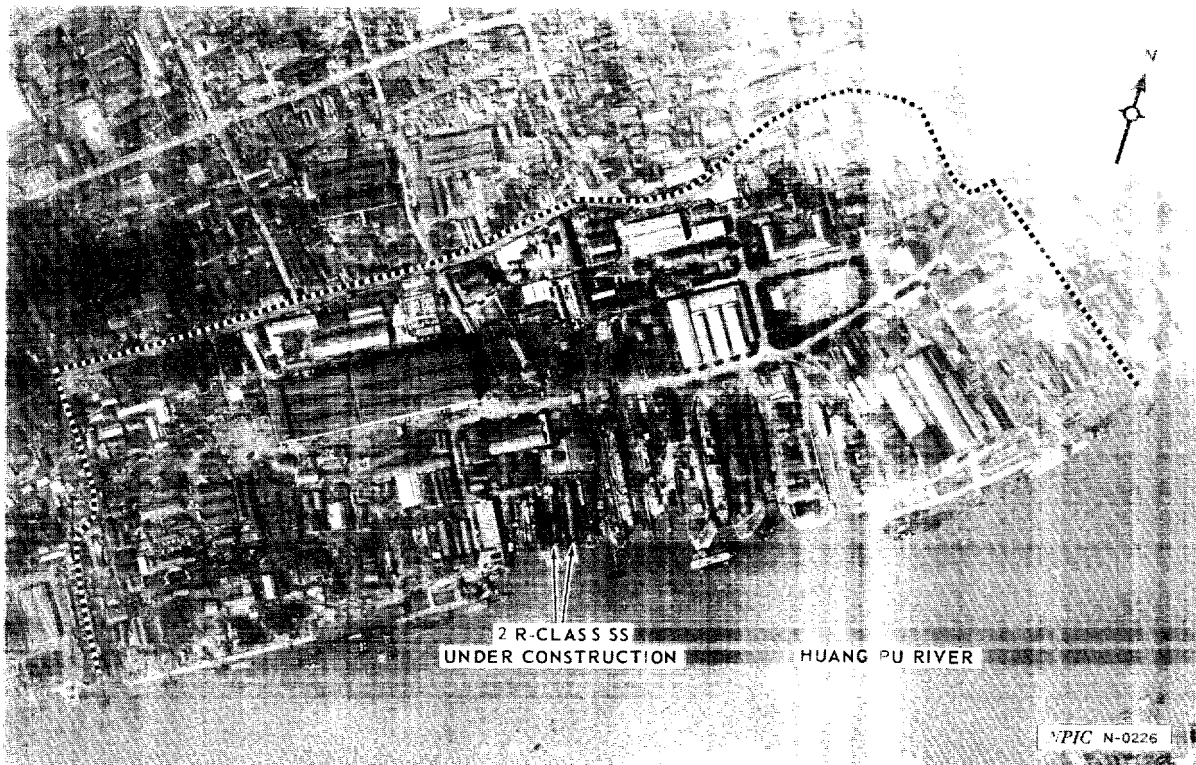
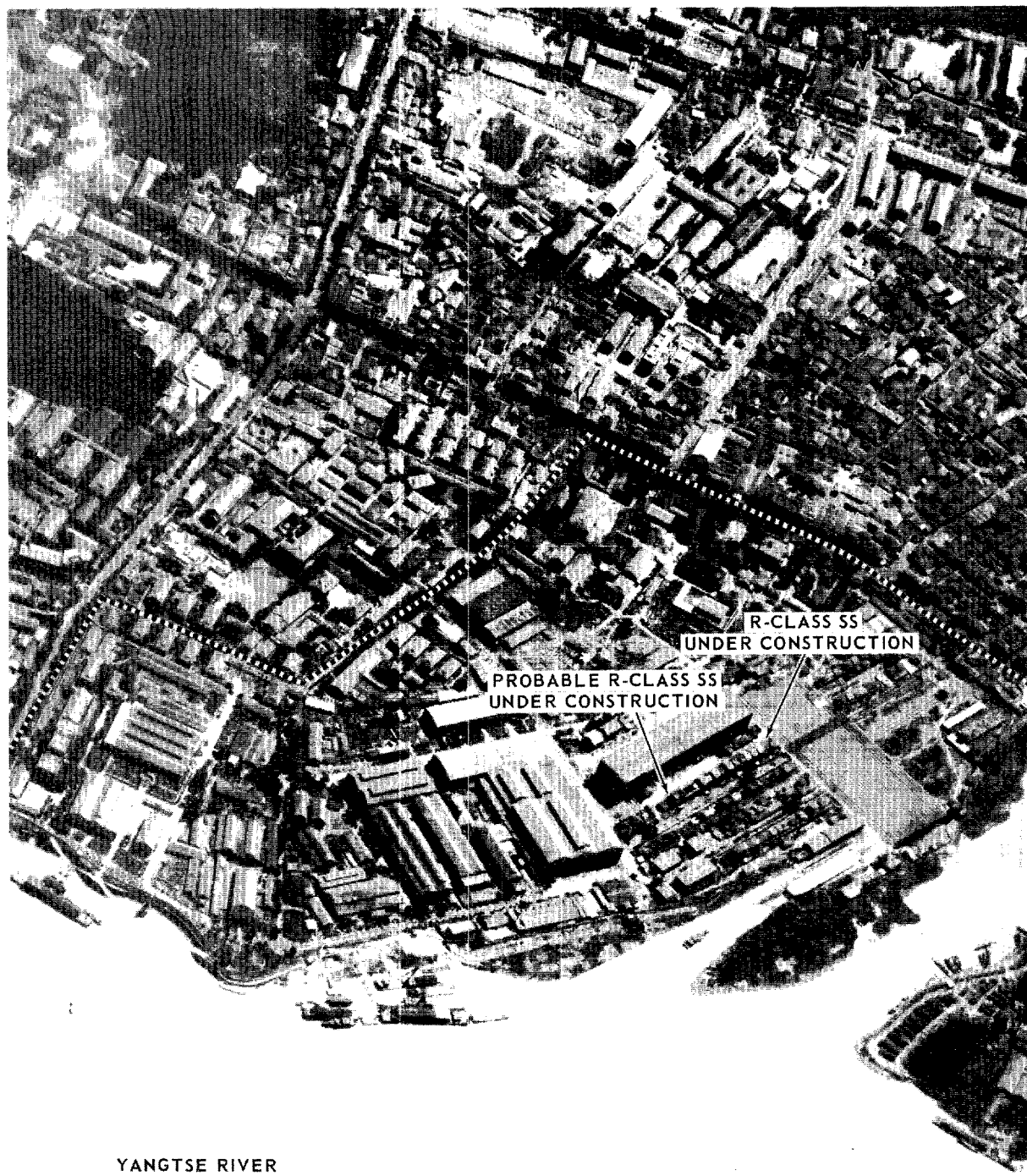


FIGURE 2. SHANGHAI SHIPYARD KIANGNAN, CHINA.



YANGTSE RIVER

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FIGURE 3. WUHAN SHIPYARD WUCHANG, CHINA.

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